

**Business of the Village Board
Village of Saranac Lake**

SUBJECT: DOE Grant Application Submission

DATE: 7-10-2023

DEPT OF ORIGIN: Village Manager

BILL # 96-2023

DATE SUBMITTED: 7/6/2023

EXHIBITS: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Village Attorney

Village Administration

EXPENDITURE
REQUIRED

AMOUNT
BUDGETED

APPROPRIATION
REQUIRED:

Resolution authorizing CHA to submit grant application to DOE

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION

MOVED BY: Scollin SECONDED BY: Brunette

VOTE ON ROLL CALL:

MAYOR WILLIAMS yes

TRUSTEE BRUNETTE yes

TRUSTEE CATILLAZ absent

TRUSTEE SCOLLIN yes

TRUSTEE SHAPIRO yes

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHA TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO
DOE ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE TO FUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
FEASIBILITY STUDY RESULTS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) has announced funding availability for small community-driven clean energy projects, and,

WHEREAS, the Village qualifies for the DOE funding for the implementation of feasibility study results, and,

WHEREAS, CHA is in the process of conducting a feasibility study that is close to completion.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees authorizes CHA to submit a grant application to the Department of Energy (DOE) for the implementation of the results of a feasibility study.

[LINK TO GRANT DOCUMENTS](#)

1.0 Funding Opportunity Description

1.0 Background

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) authorizes DOE to invest \$1 billion in energy improvements in rural or remote areas. DOE's Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Program is managed by the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED). OCED will provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions that benefit rural and remote communities.¹ ERA aims to fund clean energy projects with three specific goals:

1. **Deliver measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas** by funding replicable energy projects that lower energy costs, improve energy access and resilience, and/or reduce environmental harm;
2. **Support new rural or remote energy system models** using climate-resilient technologies, business structures that promote economic resilience, new financing mechanisms, and/or new community engagement practices; and
3. **Build clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance in rural America.**

This FOA provides \$50 million in Federal funding and is designed to support small community-driven clean energy projects requiring \$500,000 to \$5 million in Federal funding.

Other ERA funding opportunities include a \$300 million [FOA](#), which provides \$5 million to \$100 million in Federal funding to community- and large-scale demonstration projects that address region-specific energy challenges, and a \$15 million [Energizing Rural Communities Prize](#), which provides up to \$300,000 cash prizes to assist development of partnerships and financing models to advance clean energy projects.

This FOA utilizes a simplified application process and will award fixed-amount grants. This grant mechanism significantly reduces financial reporting requirements associated with larger DOE awards. Recipients are responsible for accomplishing their proposed work. Technical assistance is available to support the initial development of project concepts, as described in [Section 1.3](#).

¹ For the purposes of this statutory section, the term "rural or remote area" means a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of not more than 10,000 inhabitants. The terms "rural or remote area" and "rural or remote community" are used interchangeably.